1 **Battle by vote!** Choose a significant conflict from your History topic, and divide the class into two opposing sides – for example, Boudicca v. the Romans, Vikings v. Anglo-Saxons, Spartans v. Athenians. The groups prepare for battle by compiling arguments as to why their side should be victorious. They then engage in battle – by debate! Can they win over members of the opposing team? Finally the winning side is decided by a class vote. Is it the same as the real historical outcome?

2 **Local council meetings** Call a council meeting in the school hall to discuss a real-life local geographical issue – this could be plans for building new housing, issues with the local river flooding, or even fracking. Assign each of the children a character descriptions of people who will have an opinion on the issue – local landowners, businesswomen, scientific experts – and choose three or four confident children to be councillors. Each child prepares a statement to make as their character at the 'council meeting'. Encourage them to respond to one another's views. At the end of the meeting, the councillors must decide upon the fairest course of action – is it possible to please everyone?

3 **Football versus rugby** This is a quick and fun way in which to get children to enthuse about different sports while also practising their debating skills – you could use it as a PE lesson starter while the kids are changing or turn it into a bigger event for a wet PE lesson! Give the class five minutes in which to debate the virtues of two different sports. As an extra twist, challenge all your football-mad kids to champion a different sport instead!

4 **Should gravity be banned?** For an engaging Science plenary, choose a scientific concept (e.g. gravity, sound waves, predators) and ask the class: should it be banned? Split them into 'for' and 'against', and have each child prepare at least three reasons supporting their argument. Then, let the debate begin! Children will be encouraged to think more deeply about how scientific concepts underpin our everyday lives.

5 **Taking a stand on E-safety** Run a line of masking tape down the centre of your classroom, with one end marked 'Strongly For' and the other end 'Strongly Against'. Give the children a statement about e-safety, such as "No child should use the internet unsupervised". Ask the children to go and "take a stand" in the place on the line that shows how they feel about the statement. Choose children at different points along the line to explain their views.